

DRUG RELEASE STENT COATING PROCESS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A method of coating implantable open lattice metallic stent prosthesis is disclosed which includes sequentially  
5 applying a plurality of relatively thin outer layers of a coating composition comprising a solvent mixture of uncured polymeric silicone material and crosslinker and finely divided biologically active species, possibly of controlled average  
10 particle size, to form a coating on each stent surface. The coatings are cured in situ and the coated, cured prosthesis are sterilized in a step that includes preferred pretreatment with argon gas plasma and exposure to gamma radiation electron beam, ethylene oxide, steam.